

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 EB-07 COME-00 AID-05 OMB-01

TRSE-00 SCCT-01 AF-08 ACDA-07 /100 W
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R 171159Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5324

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 CAIRO 9682

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EEWT GE EG

SUBJ: COMMENTS OF GDR AMBASSADOR

1. SUMMARY: GDR AMBASSADOR SAYS SOVIETS AND "OTHER SOCIALIST STATES" DISPLEASED WITH RENEWED SADAT PUBLIC ATTACK ON USSR. EGYPTIANS TALK ABOUT WANTING NORMAILIZE RELATIONS, BUT TAKE NO INITIATIVES. IN CIRCUMSTANCES, SOVIETS AND OTHER SOCIALIST STATES ARE PLAYING HARD TO GET. GOE HAS ASKED HIM ENCOURAGE GDR INVESTMENT IN EGYPTIAN INDUSTRIES, BUT THIS IS A "POLITICAL" MATTER AND PRESENT EGYPTIAN- SOCIALIST STATES' RELATIONSHIPS MILITATE AGAINST IT. GOE SEEKING DIVIDE EASTERN BLOC, BUT THIS UNSUCCESSFUL EXCEPT FOR RUMANIA. SADAT MAKING MISTAKE BY PUTTING ALL HIS EGGS IN U.S. BASKED, SINCE USG WILL NOT BE ABLE PROVIDE EGYPT WITH ITS HEAVY INDUSTRY NEEDS. GDR SENDING MEDICAL SUPPLIES, FLOUR AND OTHER FOODSTUFFS TO PLO, BUT IS HAVING DIFFICULTY WORKING WITH COMPETING PLO REPS. SUDANESE COUP SHOWED NUMEIRI'S WEAKNESS, BUT EGYPTIAN CONCERN THAT SUDAN GOVT COULD BECOME COMMUNIST DOMINATED FARFETCHED.

2. GDR AMBASSADOR RADDE CAME BY , JULY 16, FOR TOUR

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D'HORIZON. HE IS ONE OF THE BETTER INFORMED EASTERN

BLOC AMBASSADORS. SOME OF HIS OBSERVATIONS WERE OF INTEREST AND ARE RECORDED BELOW:

3. SOVIET-EAST BLOC-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS: RADDE EXPRESSED DISPLEASURE THAT SADAT HAD RESUMED "PUBLIC AND VICIOUS ATTACK" ON USSR. HE HAD IN MIND SADAT'S RECENT INTERVIEW WITH READER'S DIGEST -- EDITOR, DEVINE, AS REPINTED IN AL AKBAR. HE VIEWED THIS AS A GRATUITIOUS SLAP, HARDLY CALCULATED TO ENCOURAGE A THAW IN SOVIET-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS. SOVIET REACTION HAD BEEN ONE OF ANGER. HE WONDERED WHY SADAT HAD MADE THIS STATEMENT.

4. I TOLD RADDE I HAD NO IDEA, BUT THOUGH THAT PERHAPS SADAT HAD CONCLUDED SOVIETS HAD BEEN UNRESPONSIVE TO HIS CONCILIATORY GESTURES OF THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS. RADDE ALLOWED THIS MIGHT BE SO, BUT CONTENDED SOVIETS AND "OTHER SOCIALIST STATES" HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR GOE TO TAKE SOME POSITIVE INITIATIVES TO MATCH EGYPTIAN RHETORIC ABOUT WANTING NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS. DESPITE TALKS ABOUT A "BALANCED" POLICY, ESPECIALLY BY FAHMY, EGYPTIANS HAVE DONE NOTHING TO IMPLEMENT THIS. THUS, FOR EXAMPLE, A MONTH AFTER THE TREATY TERMINATION CONTRACTS OF SOME FIFTEEN SOVIET ADVISERS AT HELWAN MILITARY PLANT EXPIRED, EGYPTIAN PLANT MANAGER EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT SOVIETS WOULD RENEW CONTRACT. SOVIET EMBASSY LET IT BE KNOWN TO GOE THAT, IF A FORMAL REQUEST WERE RECEIVED, SOVIETS WOULD CONSIDER MATTER. HOWEVER, NO FORMAL REQUEST WAS RECEIVED AND SOVIET TECHNICIANS DEPARTED. SIMILARLY, EVEN THOUGH GOE-GDR RELATIONSHIPS HAVE GENERALLY BEEN BETTER THAN THOSE OF OTHER SOCIALIST STATES, HE PROFESSED TO BE SURPRISED THAT FOR PAST FOUR YEARS NO EGYPTIAN MINISTER HAS VISITED GDR. VARIOUS INVITATIONS HAD BEEN EXTENDED, BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO EGYPTIAN RESPONSE. AS A RESULT, NO GDR MINISTER HAS BEEN HERE FOR PAST FOUR YEARS. THIS, AS HE SAW IT, HARDLY PORTENDS DESIRE TO DEVELOP RELATIONS. EASTERN BLOC, HE ADMITTED, IS PLAYING HARD TO GET.

5. VARIOUS GOE MINISTERS HAD RECENTLY ASKED HIM TO ENCOURAGE GDR INVESTMENT IN EGYPTIAN INDUSTRIES. HE WAS SECRET

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INCLINED NOT TO DO SO. APART FROM POOR STATE OF EGYPTIAN ECONOMY, ANY SUCH ACTIONS BY GDR--- AS WITH SOVIET UNION AND OTHER SOCIALIST STATES --- MUST DEPEND UPON "POLITICAL" CONSIDERATIONS. PRESENT STATE OF RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN GOE AND SOCIALIST STATES NOT SUCH AS TO MAKE IT POLITICALLY DESIRABLE. SOVIETS, HE NOTED, HAVE LIMITED CAPABILITY TO ASSIST OTHER NATIONS AND EGYPT NO LONGER HAS HIGH PRIORITY FOR SOVIET ASSISTANCE. SOVIETS HAVE GIVEN AFRICA HIGHER

PRIORITY AS EVIDENCED IN ANGOLA.

6. GOE, RADDE OPINED, HAS CONSCIOUSLY BEEN TRYING TO
DIVIDE SOCIALIST BLOC BY WOOING SOME AND IGNORING OTHERS, AND
IT WOULD FIND THIS EFFORT UNSUCCESSFUL. SOVIET UNION,
GDR, BULGARIA AND HUNGARY (POLAND WAS NOT MENTIONED) ARE
ALL DETERMINED TO FOLLOW COMMON COURSE VIS-A-VIS EGYPT. RUMANIA IS A
SPECIAL CASE AND SEEMS TO BE WILLING TO BE OF HELP TO
EGYPT, BUT CANNOT DO MUCH IN PRACTICAL TERMS.

7. US- EGYPTIAN RELATIONS: RADDE ATTRIBUTED GOE
ATTITUDE TOWARD SOVIETS TO SADAT'S DESIRE " PUT ALL HIS
EGGS INTO THE AMERICAN BASKET". GOE WILL EVENTUALLY
FIND THAT THIS A MISTAKE. DESPITE GOOD INTENTIONS,
USG WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE EGYPT WITH ITS REQUIRE-
MENTS, ESPECIALLY IN HEAVY INDUSTRY AREA. OPEN DOOR
POLICY, AS FAR AS HE COULD TELL, HAS BEEN A FAILURE AND
HAS NOT SPURRED EGYPTIAN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT. SUCH
ASSISTANCE CAN ONLY COME FROM SOCIALIST STATES, WHICH
SADAT YEEMS NOT TO UNDERSTAND. SADAT, HE FELT, HAS A
PERSONAL PHOBIA ABOUT THE SOVIETS (HE IS RIGHT).
SADAT CLAIMS BREZHNEV IMPOSED 1971 TREATY ON HIM AND HAS
REFUSED TO RESCHEDULE DEBTS. ALL THIS IS "HISTORICAL"
AND SADAT SHOULD LOOK AT SITUATION MORE PRAGMATICALLY.
SOVIET WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS DEBT RESCHEDULING WAS
ALREADY A POSITIVE ACT ON ITS PART.

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8. GDR- PLO RELATIONS: RADDE SAID GDR IS SENDING SOME MEDICAL SUPPLIES, FLOUR AND OTHER FOODSTUFFS TO PLO. (DMI TOLD DATT 20,000 TONS OF EAST GERMAN FLOUR HAD BEEN SENT BY WAY OF EGYPT AND GREECE.) THIS HAS BEEN DONE AT ARAFAT'S REQUEST. HE COMPLAINED OF GREAT DIFFICULTY IN WORKING WITH THE LOCAL PLO LEADERS AS TO HOW THESE ITEMS ARE TO BE FORWARDED. THERE ARE DEEP PERSONALITY CLASHES AMONG THE SEVERAL PLO REPRESENTATIVES HERE, ESPECIALLY RIBHI AWWAD AND SURANI, AND EACH IS VYING FOR POSITION.

9. SUDANESE COUP: NOTHING NUMEIRI'S PRESENCE IN EGYPT AND THE UPCOMING SADAT-NUMEIRI TRIP TO SAUDI ARABIS, RADDE OPINED NUMEIRI'S POSITION IS WEAK. GOE IS DESPERATELY LOOKING FOR WAYS TO SHORE HIM UP. HE HAD HEARD EGYPTIAN CHARGE THAT SOVIET AND EAST GERMAN EMBASSY OFFICERS HAD BEEN IN THE STREETS DURING THE COUP, BUT BELITTLED THIS AS COINCIDENTAL. GDR, HE INSISTED, HAD NOT ENCOURAGED REBELS AS EGYPTIANS HAD CLAIMED. NOTING EGYPTIAN PUBLIC CONCERN THAT THERE BE NO COMMUNIST GOVT IN THE SUDAN, RADDE SCOFFED AT THE IDEA. HE ASKED HOW, IN A SOCIETY LIKE THE SUDAN, COULD THERE BE A COMMUNIST
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GOVT IN THE TRADITIONAL SENSE OF THE TERM. REMINDED THAT GOE IS CONCERNED THAT A COMMUNIST DOMINATED GOVT MIGHT GIVE FACILITIES TO SOVIETS AND LIKE-MINDED STATES, RADDE ADMITTED THAT THIS WAS PROBABLY BEHIND THE EGYPTIAN POSITION, BUT THOUGHT EVEN THIS WAS FARFETCHED.

10. COMMENT: RADDE, WHO HAS BEEN HERE FOR THREE YEARS, IS A WELL INFORMED, SHREWD AND SOMEWHAT CYNICAL OBSERVER OF THE EGYPTIAN SCENE. HE COMPLAINS BITTERLY OF HIS INABILITY TO GET ANY OF THE PROJECTS DONE IN WHICH THE GDR IS INVOLVED. HE IS SCATHING IN HIS COMMENTS ON THE EGYPTIAN BUREAUCRACY. WE WONDER WHETHER SO CALLED FLOUR SHIPMENTS ARE IN FACT ARMS.
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